

# AIS CURRENTS

## In Memoriam: Henry J. Frundt (1940-2010)



Photo courtesy Carolyn Herring

By Yolanda Prieto

On 17 September 2010, Ramapo College lost an exemplary member of its faculty after a long battle with cancer. **Hank Frundt** fought this illness for four years and he taught classes almost until the end of his life. After receiving his Ph.D in Sociology from Rutgers University, he joined the faculty of Ramapo College in 1973, where he taught for 37 years.

Hank's areas of expertise were corporate studies and Latin American social and economic development. As a convener of Sociology, Hank Frundt was a true program builder. He led faculty members in drafting a solid and academically sound Sociology program. On top of that, Hank was also very active in the Latin American Studies program at Ramapo. Located in the School of American and International Studies, the faculty of the Latin American Studies program organized a very successful conference on the Latinoization of the Americas last Fall. Hank's input was key throughout the organization of this event. What's more, Hank also taught courses in the Master of Liberal Arts. With **Ellen Ross, Martha Ecker and Yolanda Prieto** at

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## Second Annual AIS Alumni/Student Roundtable

By Carter Jones Meyer

Finding a career path can be exciting, but it can also be fraught with challenges, particularly in today's economy. AIS juniors and seniors gained some valuable insights into life after graduation when they attended the second annual AIS Alumni/Student Roundtable, held 1 November.

A large turnout of alumni, faculty and students enjoyed

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**New Jersey's Public Liberal Arts College**

## Letter from the Dean

By Hassan Nejad



The School of American and International Studies (AIS) is a vibrant learning community of faculty and students and I am privileged

and honored to be its dean. Last year was a productive and exciting year for AIS. The faculty published five books and over a dozen articles, book reviews, and chapters, and presented 25 papers at national and international

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different times, he taught The U.S. in a Changing World, one of the core courses in the program. A prolific researcher and writer, Hank studied labor conditions in the United States, Guatemala and other Central American countries. His latest book, *Fair Bananas: Farmers, Workers, and Consumers Strive to Change an Industry*, was published by the University of Arizona Press in 2009. Besides his research on worker rights, Hank was a passionate advocate for workers, especially in Central America. In New Jersey, Hank was very active in the labor movement. Once the president of the AFT local chapter, he also served on the AFT State Council, where he worked hard to achieve the best possible contracts for the faculty.

Outside of Ramapo, Hank was active in professional organizations, especially the Latin American Studies Association (LASA), where he organized panels with Guatemalans and other Latin Americanists. Hank also participated in other community activities, such as the Oratorio Society Choir of Montclair and the United Nations Commission on Social Issues. He was also co-chair of the Seminar on Globalization and Labor Studies at Columbia University. Hank had an unyielding sense of social justice and he applied it to everything he did: in the classroom teaching his students, in faculty meetings, at the union, and in his intellectual and community work.

An outpouring of love, admiration and grief by many Ramapo faculty

and staff followed the news of Hank's passing. E-mails circulated which described him as kind, warm, a gentle man, a clear mind, a paradigm of the scholar/activist, a true role model. Hank Frundt will be missed sorely by family, friends and colleagues. He is survived by his wife Bette, his children Mike, Laura and her husband Chris, Jim, Dan, Janine and her husband Gian, Paul and his wife Monica, and his grandchildren Josh, Rose, Mike, Nate, Maria, Olivia, Luke and Noah. Also his brother Chuck Frundt and his wife Rita, his sister Mitzi Shimp and her husband Bill, his sister Mara Frundt, SSND, his sister Anne Wildenborg and her husband Peter. The world has lost a staunch advocate for peace and justice. □



AIS Film Series

**AIS FILM SERIES**

During the Fall of 2010, the AIS Film Series featured Michael Ritchie's *The Candidate* (1972), Tim Blake Nelson's *O* (2001), Clint Eastwood's *Invictus* (2009), and Agnieszka Holland's *Europa, Europa* (1990). □

**Alumni/Student Roundtable***continued from page 1*

informal conversation before **Dean Nejad** opened the formal proceedings with a series of questions for alumni and student panelists regarding career choices. Alumni panelists were **Tom Hewitt '75** (chair of the AIS Alumni Advisory Board and a vice president/field marketing manager for TD Bank); **Toni Brower '02** (a licensed real estate broker and vice president of sales at Michael Brower Realty Company); and **Scott Stahlmann '79** (a Recruitment and Staffing professional at TIAA-CREF). Student representatives were **Brendan Flanagan** (Literature and International Studies, minors in History and Human Rights and Genocide Studies); **Dorina Gregorie** (International Studies, minor in East Asian Studies); and **Lauren Santaniello** (Literature, minor in Italian). The alumni panelists provided thoughtful guidance on how to navigate the job market. All three spoke to the value of liberal arts training in helping them to succeed, particularly the ability to think critically, communicate effectively and consider issues in a broader context.

The audience then broke into smaller groups so that faculty and students could meet alumni personally and discuss with them the many different career paths available to liberal arts graduates. Alumni who offered their insights included **Cynthia Davis '79**, an elementary school teacher; **Steve Fonder '74**, a group manager with the IRS; **Boris Glazman '10**, a Public Relations Consultant for PepsiCo; **Cathy Moran Hajo '85**, associate editor/assistant

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## AIS FACULTY UPDATES

**Paul Elovitz** published “Admiration, Envy, and Hatred of Jews as Agents of Change in Modern Civilization” in *Mentalities* (Vol. 22, No. 2, 3-14). In the fall 2010 issue of the *Journal of Psychohistory* (Vol. 38, No. 2) his articles, “Messianic Hopes, Anger, Fantasy, Fear, and Disappointment in Obama’s Presidency,” 102-123, and “Making Sense of Obama,” 190-93, were brought into print. In the December issue (Vol. 17, No. 3) of the double-blind refereed journal *Clio’s Psyche* he published “Until the Last Anti-Semite Dies,” 215-220; “Jews as Capitalists, Communists, Zionists, and Victims of Nationalism,” 241-244 (a review essay); “Editorial Board Member and Psychologist Leon Rappoport,” 264-266—with Ronald Downey of Kansas State University; and “The Influence of Childhood Experience: Robert N. Butler,” 266-269—with Nora O’Brien-Suric of the Hartford Foundation. While authoring and co-authoring 13 articles in 2010, Elovitz devoted an almost equal amount of energy, thought, and time to the editorial leadership of *Clio’s Psyche*.

Recent professional presentations by Paul Elovitz included “Social Justice and Responsibility among Psychohistorians: Robert Jay Lifton,” at the Rutgers University, New Brunswick 22-23 October 2010 meetings of the Association for the Psychoanalysis of Culture and Society (APCS). This was part of the panel, “Social Justice, Ethics, Economics, Greed, Atrocity in War, and Psycho-

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### Letter from the Dean *continued from page 1*

conferences. More than a dozen students and faculty conducted joint research and eight AIS undergraduate and graduate students presented papers at regional and national conferences. The School’s Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies (CHGS), Colloquium Series, Film Series, and Readings at Ramapo program organized over two dozens events for the enhancement of the intellectual climate of the community. Additionally, two “International at Home” presentations, one symposium on world languages and cultures, and (in collaboration with the School of Contemporary Arts) one symposium on Latinoization of the Americas were organized by the AIS. The year also marked the establishment of the first AIS Alumni Advisory Board. One of the outcomes of this initiative was an Alumni/Student Networking event attended by over forty students, eight faculty members and seven alumni.

This year promises to be just as exciting and productive. In the Fall semester the School welcomed four new full-time faculty members, implemented a Creative Writing minor, held the second Alumni/Students Networking event, increased the membership of its Alumni Advisory Board by three new members, organized a dozen community wide-programs (sponsored by the School’s CHGS, Colloquium Series, Film Series, Readings at Ramapo program, and the Literature Convening Group), received approval for two new academic minors (Human Rights and Genocide Studies, International

Studies), appointed fifteen students for collaborative research with the faculty, received a Fulbright Scholar, two Fulbright teaching assistants, and three international instructors from Russia, Japan, Tunisia, China, and Italy, and held two International at Home events. Ten faculty members presented their scholarly works at professional conferences. Several others are working on article and book manuscripts. One faculty member received a substantial joint-NEH grant. The School planned an international conference on Political Socialization and Emerging Political Actors in the Middle East in collaboration with Jagiellonian University in Krakow, Poland (scheduled for May 2011). An American Sign Language sequence of courses was introduced this fall. The School served 670 students in its seven academic majors and over twelve minors and concentrations. It also enrolled over fifteen hundred students in its College English, Readings in Humanities, and other general education courses.

I look forward to an equally successful Spring 2011 semester. □





**AIS FACULTY UPDATES**  
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history,” that he organized and chaired and included colleagues from Rutgers, the University of Connecticut, and private practice. At the 7-10 July 2010 meetings of the International Society for Political Psychology’s 33rd Annual Convention in San Francisco, he presented “The History of Political Psychology and Psychohistory” in a panel he organized with colleagues from SUNY and UConn. Elovitz is scheduling professional presentations in the first seven months of 2011 at four different organizations from New York to Istanbul.

**Susan Hangen** was invited to deliver a paper called “The Increasing Politicization of Ethnicity in Nepal since 2007” on a panel titled “Ethnicity in Nepal and its Impact on Nepali Politics and the Peace Process.” This was a small conference called Nepal: Political Dynamics and the Future of the Peace Process, sponsored by Chatham House (The Royal Institute of International Affairs) in London, UK on 19 October 2010.

She delivered a conference paper called “Class Dislocation and Political Mobilization among Nepalis in New York” at the 109th Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, New Orleans, LA, 17-21 November 2010. Susan is co-editing a volume with Mahendra Lawoti called *Nationalism and Ethnic Conflict in Nepal*. The book will be published by Routledge and will be completed in January 2011. Her article “Nepal and Bhutan in 2010” will be published

in the journal *Asian Survey* in February 2011. Susan has also co-authored a report with Luna Ranjit called “Snapshots of the Nepali-Speaking Community in New York City: Demographics and Challenges,” published by Adhikaar for Human Rights and Social Justice, December 2010. They will present their research findings at the New School University on 8 December 2010.

**Yvette Kisor**’s “Narrative Layering and ‘High-culture’ Romance” has been published in *The Twilight Mystique: Critical Essays on the Novels and Films*, edited by Amy M. Clarke and Marijane Osborn; the book is part of the Critical Explorations in Science Fiction and Fantasy series from McFarland, 2010. In addition, her essay on “Using the History of Middle-earth series with Tolkien’s Fiction” has been accepted to the prestigious *MLA Approaches to Teaching* series in the upcoming volume focused on J. R. R. Tolkien’s *The Lord of the Rings and Other Works*, edited by Leslie Donovan and due to be published in 2011. Finally, her paper “What Can Lexomics Tell Us about *Beowulf*?” has been accepted to the session Computational Approaches to Medieval Literature at the 46th International Congress on Medieval Studies at Western Michigan University, May 2011.

**Iraida H. López**’s critical edition of *Cien botellas en una pared* (*One Hundred Bottles on a Wall*), Ena Lucía Portela’s most popular novel, appeared in July. The edition includes an introduction and nearly five-hundred notes, written in collaboration with the author, on dialectal, cultural, and historical references. The book was published by Stockcero. At

the last congress of the Latin American Studies Association in October, Iraida was elected to the Executive Council of the Cuba Section for the period 2010-2013.

**Sam Mustafa**’s third book, *Germany in the Modern World: A New History*, is coming out from Rowman and Littlefield this month (December 2010).

**Stephen Rice** and Meredith Davis (School of Contemporary Arts) received a National Endowment for the Humanities Landmarks of American History and Culture grant to develop and conduct two one-week summer programs for school teachers that will focus on the Hudson River in the nineteenth century. The programs will run during the summer of 2011 and will attract teachers from throughout the country. In August Rice delivered a lecture titled “Imagining the ‘Highlands of the Hudson’ in Nineteenth-Century America” at the Nassau County Museum of Art as part of the New York Council for the Humanities Speakers in the Humanities Program. In addition, Rice’s co-edited volume (with Michael Sappol, National Library of Medicine) *A Cultural History of the Human Body in the Age of Empire* was published in September by Berg and includes an essay by Rice titled “Picturing Bodies in the Nineteenth Century.” This is the fifth volume in the six-volume *Cultural History of the Human Body*, edited by Linda Kalof and William Bynum. Finally, Rice published two book reviews since spring 2010, in the *Winterthur Portfolio* and in the *American Historical Review*.

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**Alumni/Student Roundtable**  
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director of the Margaret Sanger Papers Project at NYU; **Jonathan Marcus '93**, assistant general counsel at KPMG LLP; **Kelly McCartney '03**, curator of the Frederick County Historical Society in Maryland; and **Suzanne Sykes '06**, a consultant with SCORE (small business mentoring and training). Student found the evening a great success. "The event was really eye opening in showing where my degree in history could take me," senior **Lauren McDonald** (History) said. She was particularly pleased to learn that many alumni had worked in several different fields, and that having a liberal arts degree had enabled them to do so

successfully. "I plan on teaching after I graduate," she noted, "but also changing fields eventually to do non-profit work. So it was reassuring to know I didn't need a set career to commit to right after college." **Aly Williams** (History) appreciated the small table



Lauren McDonald (History), second from left, speaks with alumni and faculty

discussion because "I was able to talk one-on-one with alumni and faculty during this time and receive feedback from them on useful networking skills, interview techniques. I was able to build

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**AIS Alum Working to Prevent Genocide**

By Michael Riff

During a whirlwind visit to Ramapo on 28 October, AIS alum and President of the Save Darfur Coalition, **Mark Lotwis**, spoke to several audiences about the possibility of stemming further violence and human rights violations in the Sudan. The idea to bring Mark to campus came from one of his mentors at Ramapo, Professor of Political Science and International Studies, **Cliff Peterson**.

The primary purpose for Mark's visit was a dinner hosted by **President Mercer** and **Dr. Jackie Ehlert-Mercer** at Havemeyer House and attended by Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies Advisory Board members, activists, and Ramapo College Alumni Association and Foundation Board members. Mark explained how the Save Darfur Coalition has become influential in shaping U.S. policy and, in a more subtle and indirect way, inducing restraint on the part of Sudanese government. Drawing on a recent fact-finding trip to Sudan, Mark explained current anxiety as to whether the Bashir government will allow referenda in South Sudan and neighboring Anyei to go ahead as planned in January, let alone accept a vote for secession. Meanwhile, the government could easily resume attacks on civilians in Darfur.

The talk, which Mark illustrated with video and photos that he took at the U.N.-sponsored camps in Darfur for Internally Displaced Persons and at meetings with

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Dorina Gregorie, Dean Hassan Nejad, and Marie Hargrove

**AI S FACULTY UPDATES**  
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**Natalia Santamaría Laorden** has recently published an article in the journal of the National University of Mexico, entitled “Debates finiseculares entre autores españoles y latinoamericanos sobre el regeneracionismo español,” *Cuadernos Americanos* 132 (2) (April-June 2010), 159-179. The article explores the relevance of *fin de siècle* transatlantic debates in order to gain an understanding of the historic, geographical and linguistic dimensions of the Spanish regeneration movement.

**Ed Shannon** was accepted as a participant in the Network Winter 2011 Seminar, to be held from Monday, 10 January to Friday, 14 January 2011 at the University of the Sacred Heart in San Juan, Puerto Rico. Last year, he took part in the Literature and the Environment Seminar. There are three sessions, all on the theme of Globalism. Ed will be in the World Literature Seminar, convened by Paulo Lemos Horta, of NYU Abu Dhabi.

In July, Ed Shannon was interviewed for a Kurt Anderson’s *Studio 360* for WNYC radio. *Studio 360* produces documentaries in a series called American Icons. Ed was interviewed, along with Woody’s daughter Nora Guthrie, Pete Seeger, and others for a show on Woody’s song “This Land is Your Land.” It was originally broadcast in October, 2010. You can listen to the show on-line: <http://beta.studio360.org/2010/sep/30/land-your-land/>

In July, Ed published “Something Black in the American Psyche: Formal Innovation and Freudian Imagery in the Comics of Winsor McCay and Robert Crumb” in *The Canadian Review of American Studies*.

**Lisa Williams** had poems published this Fall in the journals *Washington Square* and *The Mom Egg*. A poem was also published in the anthology *Mamas and Papas* (San Diego, City Works Press).

**Jeremy Teigen** published an article in *Newsweek* on the role of viral internet political advertising in August and gave a talk at St. John’s University in October on suburban voting patterns in New Jersey from recent elections. His coauthored piece on the role of military service and Latinos’ later-life earnings appears in a book entitled *Latinos and the Economy* (Springer 2010). □

**GENOCIDE**  
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Darfuri leaders, was followed by a lively Q&A session. In response to questions about the Obama administration’s efforts to maintain peace and curb human rights abuses in Sudan, Mark recounted a meeting between President Obama and advocacy groups during the U.N. General Assembly. He came away with the impression that the President was well informed about developments in the region and determined that his Administration would do everything within its power to prevent renewed violence.

Earlier in the day, Mark spoke to

**Dr. Michael Riff’s** “Paradigms of Genocide” class. Students questioned him not only about what the Obama Administration could do, but what ordinary Americans, including students, could do to help prevent genocide. Mark was thereby provided with the perfect opportunity to announce that The Save Darfur Coalition and the student-founded Genocide Intervention Network are being merged into a single organization that will harness the power of its constituencies to influence the American government, international organizations, and corporations to help eradicate the scourge of genocide and large-scale atrocities.

Encouraging student activism in preventing genocide was also the topic of a meeting that Mark had with several AIS students interested in organizing student clubs connected to human rights issues. He put them in touch with student leaders from several campuses. Mark’s visit to Ramapo also bore fruit in another respect. At the invitation of Dean Nejad, Mark will become a member of the AIS Alumni Advisory Board. As a consequence, AIS students and faculty can look forward to seeing more of him in the future. □

Photo courtesy Louis DiPaolo



President Peter Mercer, Mark Lotwis and Professor Michael Riff

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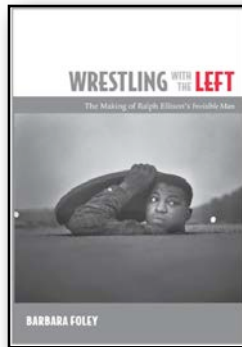


## RUTGERS PROFESSOR SPEAKS ABOUT RALPH ELLISON IN HISTORY

By Patricia M. Ard

On 10 November 2010 the Literature Faculty and the School of American and International Studies sponsored a talk by **Dr. Barbara Foley**, a

professor of English and American Studies at Rutgers University, Newark. Dr. Foley's well attended talk was titled "Ralph Ellison in History, History in Ralph Ellison," and concerned the evolution of Ellison's political sensibilities as he worked through different drafts of his canonical 1952 novel *The Invisible Man*. Ellison was a major African-American writer in the post World War II period, and Dr. Foley drew upon her decades of research on the author to illustrate his movement away from a Marxist affinity, a move reflecting currents in American political thought of the period. Dr. Foley's book on this topic is titled *Wrestling with the Left: The Making of Ralph Ellison's Invisible Man* and was published in 2010 by Duke University Press. The talk was part of the Literature faculty's plan to provide opportunities for students to converse with literary scholars and to see how literary research engages with the world. □



## Student News

AIS senior **Shaima Khinjani** presented a well-received paper coauthored with Prof. Rebecca Root entitled "Gender and Election Planning in Afghanistan" at the Northeastern Political Science Association Conference on 14 October 2010 in Boston, Massachusetts. The research stems from her election observations in the Afghan 2010 Parliamentary elections for the Wolesi Jirga and dealt with the many challenges to participation by women in voting and politics. Another political science major, **Yamesha Woodley** attended the conference as well.



Prof. Jeremy Teigen, Yamesha Woodley, Shaima Khinjani, and Prof. Rebecca Root

Shaima, double major in Political Science and International Studies, is headed to graduate study at the University of Montana after graduation this month. Shaima is an Afghan citizen who has served

in the Gender Unit of the Afghan Independent Elections Commission, where she worked to bring political rights to all Afghan women. During her time at Ramapo, Shaima also completed several independent studies, worked as a consultant for the NGO Women for Women International, and gave presentations at conferences and in classes. □

The **Philosophy Club** and Student Activities Platinum Series did a joint series this term on *Lost* and philosophy. They watched three episodes of the popular television program *Lost* and discussed the philosophical import of the show: Are we free or determined? Does the universe have a purpose? And why are so many characters named after British Empiricists? Attendees also received free books on *Lost* and philosophy. Next term the philosophy club will look forward to hosting an 'after dark toga party'! □

Ramapo student **Kimberly Mahaffey**, under the tutelage of **Paul Elovitz**, published "Voyeurism on the Truman Show," *Clio's Psyche* (Vol. 17, No. December, 235-241). Currently, he is working with three other students with the goal of publishing articles and/ or presenting at an international conference. In two cases the work is aided by a faculty-student research grant. □

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**STUDENT NEWS***continued from page 7*

On Sunday, 7 November the **First Year Seminar (FYS)** students went to see the Broadway musical *The Scottsboro Boys* at the Lyceum Theatre in New York City. Using the minstrel show format, the musical retells the story of the 1930's Scottsboro case, in which nine African American youths were accused of raping two white women. Cases associated with this incident went before the Supreme Court twice and it is widely regarded as an infamous example of a racially motivated miscarriage of justice. The last of the Scottsboro defendants was not cleared until 1976. The show provided an excellent example for our students of the intersections among history, politics, literature, philosophy, and the other disciplines of AIS. The show briefly became a center of controversy, as members of the Freedom Party challenged its use of minstrelsy to deliver its critique of racism in America. This storm of opinion provided an opportunity for our students to consider issues of relevance, taste, and context in history. The trip included a visit to Bryant Park and a delicious Italian dinner at Marcello's in Suffern, NY.

FYS: Introduction to Liberal Studies is the common course for all incoming AIS students. Faculty from all the AIS disciplines and interdisciplines participate in the course, either as guest lecturers or as instructors. This year's guest lecturers included **Profs. Paula**

**Straile-Costa** (Language), **Rebecca Root** (Political Science and International Studies), and **Jeremy Teigen** (Political Science). The four instructors for Fall 2010 are **Roark Atkinson** (History), **Lisa Cassidy** (Philosophy), **Yvette Kisor** (Literature), and **Michael Unger** (Political Science).

This semester also featured a guest lecture by Long Island University Brooklyn Associate **Professor Sophia Wong**. Dr. Wong is a specialist in justice and disability studies. She led a discussion on how citizens with cognitive disabilities are treated as outsiders, in keeping with this semester's insiders vs. outsiders theme. □

**Alumni/Student Roundtable**  
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relationships with a few alumni who I have been emailing." One even reviewed her resume before she sent it to an editor at Pearson Publishers, who later hired her for an internship. **Hannah West** (History and American Studies) felt that the event was "incredibly helpful and encouraging. It helped me network with individuals in my field, and also opened my eyes to some possible career options for the future." **Tom "TJ" Bulger** said the evening helped him to see more clearly the many *different* fields available to AIS graduates. That eased his fears about the future, and gave him new focus and direction for life after graduation. □



AIS Colloquium Series

**AIS Colloquium Series**

This fall, the AIS Colloquium Series sponsored two talks by new professors. American Studies Professor **John Gronbeck-Tedesco** presented his research, "Conflicting Exceptionalisms: Cuba, the United States, and the Cold War." Literature Professor **Todd Landon Barnes** gave a talk entitled "George W. Bush's 'Three Shakespeares': *Macbush*, *Macbeth*, and the Theater of War." □



Dean Hassan Nejad (at lectern) addressing alumni, students, and faculty at the Second Annual AIS Alumni/Student Roundtable

Photo courtesy Carolyn Herring